

(c) what steps Government are taking so that Employment Exchanges can compete with private consultancy firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no competition between Employment Exchange and private consultancy firms. Employment Exchanges with a network of 947 offices spread throughout the length and breadth of the country are providing free services to the job seekers, employers, etc. through their various functions such as registration, submission of names to employers, career counseling, vocational guidance and collection of labour market information.

Incidents of violation of ban on child labour

1603. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of employment of children under 14 in domestic and hospitality sector were reported after recent notification banning the above;

(b) if so, details thereof including number of such cases reported and action taken State-wise, Category-wise as on date;

(c) whether activities that have incidence and high incidence of child labour has been identified;

(d) if so, details of such activity State-wise, category-wise as on date; and

(e) if not, whether steps will be taken to do so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. State Governments are 'appropriate' Government for implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 in their respective

areas. As per the information received from the State Governments, 1627 violations were detected during the inspections carried out by some State Governments from whom reports were received. Details of number of cases reported and the action taken by them is enclosed a Statement-I (See below).

(c) to (e) As per the provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, employment of children below 14 years is prohibited in 15 and 57 hazardous occupations and processes respectively. As per Census 2001, the number of working children in the country is 1.26 crore. As per the Census 2001, the list of major hazardous occupations and processes employing large number of children along with the number of children employed in the age group of 5-14 years is at Statement-II.

WHO standards for safe drinking water

1604. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation has laid down standards for safe drinking water;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether these standards are followed by Government to provide safe drinking water to the people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved in applying these standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) The World Health Organization has provided guidelines primarily addressed to water and health regulators, policy makers and their advisors, to assist in the development of national standards. As per the guidelines of National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance Programme, all the States and UTs were asked to follow the IS -10500 Standard laid down by the Bureau of Indian Standards.